

# THE STATUS OF LOUISVILLE WOMEN 2012



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REVITALIZATION  
OFFICE FOR WOMEN  
810 BARRET AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40204

Founded in 1991, Office for Women (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area.

Using policy and advocacy, Office For Women works to ensure women have access to the resources and information necessary for self-sufficiency and self-determination. Therefore, OFW focuses on issues related to violence against women, women's physical and mental health, social and economic well-being, and community engagement.

OFW was founded in 1991 after a young mother was murdered by her estranged husband who then committed suicide, leaving a small child to grow up without her parents. During the early 1990s it was estimated a women in Jefferson County was assaulted every ninety minutes. Fifty percent of homicides were related to domestic violence in Jefferson County as were twenty percent within the city of Louisville. OFW's immediate agenda was to bring together community partners and to identify and implement solutions.

OFW efforts have been instrumental in the implementation of policies, collaborations, and tools to improve the safety of women and their families. Among the successes are programs currently serving Jefferson County: The creation of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) which is now available in all but three states; the Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center where parents can safely exchange children or have supervised visitation; and AWARE (Abused Women's Active Response Emergency) with equipment provided by ADT alarm services.



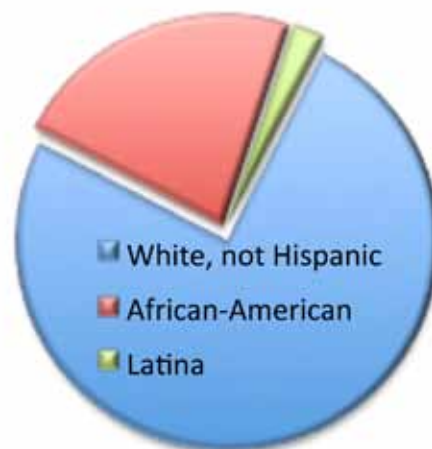
DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES  
AND REVITALIZATION**

# ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY OF WOMEN

## Quick Facts About Louisville Women

- In 2010, more women were single than married.
- The median age for females is 39.4 years.
- Although less than 50 percent of the foreign born population, females comprise a majority of naturalized citizens.
- Births to teens rose to 11.3 percent.
- Births to mothers without a high school diploma equaled 20 percent.
- Median earnings for a female with an associate's degree were only \$478 greater than a male with a high school diploma.
- Female head of households were more than 11 times as likely to live in poverty as males with no wife present.
- Continuing a long tradition volunteerism, volunteer hours of women consistently exceed volunteer hours by males.
- A majority of the population, females, account for 31 percent of the Louisville Metro Council, and only 19 percent of the Kentucky legislature. (2012)
- Although women are the majority of registered voters, males tend to vote at a higher rate.

## Females Ages 18-64





This report on the status of women in our community by the Louisville Metro Office For Women is not intended to be comprehensive. It is instead intended as an overview consisting of highlights and opportunities to move forward; a tool to generate discussion and further examination of the status of women, barriers women face, and ways to open doors for future generations of women.

---

## ***Median Income \$27,378***

---

Unless otherwise noted, population data relied upon for this report came from the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Census data as compiled in American Community Survey Estimates. Data may be considered as a snapshot in time or useful for identifying trends.

Some resources relied upon such as the Kentucky Women's Health Registry, the Louisville Metro Health Status Report.

2012 (Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness) and Benchmark II (Women4Women) are mentioned within sections of the report.

The Louisville Metro Office for Women (OFW) uses research, policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Community Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization.

OFW issues are those which affect women's physical and mental health, social and economic well-being, community involvement, and violence against women. OFW's objectives include serving as a hub for sharing information with women in the Louisville area and working to ensure all services and activities are culturally competent, in acknowledgment and respect of the growing diversity of Louisville Metro.

Safe supervised visitation and exchange of children for families with a risk or history of domestic violence remains a function of OFW's focus on Violence Against Women and Intimate Partner Violence. Since 2004 OFW has had oversight of the

Safe Havens grant (awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women) and operation of the Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center.

Functions of the Office include:

- Advocating through Public Policy
- Facilitating Networks
- Enhancing Connections to Government
- Raising Awareness
- Promoting Leadership and Civic Engagement
- Research
- Internships/Mentoring Opportunities

Connections for women, resources and information are provided by OFW through its web pages, print and electronic publications, public events and one-on-one communication with the office.

---

## ***Median Age 39 years and 4 months***

---

OFW offers workshops, conversation cafes, internships and volunteer opportunities which offer a path to improving the status of women through learning, community engagement, and research.



# A Typical Louisville Woman: Ms. Flora D. Lis



Based on local data, Ms. Lis represents a typical female resident.

***Ms. Lis is likely to have health insurance while suffering the ill affects of smoking, obesity, and engaging in passive leisure time activities.***

Ms. Lis is a white, non-Hispanic, native born female; U.S. citizen living in Jefferson County who is thirty-nine years old and weighs about 171<sup>1</sup> pounds. She is somewhat more likely to be married than single with a 69 percent probability of being married at some point in her life.<sup>2</sup>

As a white female in Jefferson County, Ms. Lis' education includes a high school diploma or equivalent and some college. She speaks only English, is registered to vote and enjoys volunteering.

Employed full-time, she commutes to work in her own vehicle and can expect an income of \$36,496 from a management or professional occupation. Although her earnings are \$10,686 greater than the median income for Hispanic/Latino women and \$6,013 greater than African-American women, Ms. Lis earns \$10,432 less than the median income of white male professionals.

In light of statistics related to abuse and violence in relationships, Ms. Lis has a high probability of being a victim of abuse. According to a 2010 report, 37.5 percent of Kentucky females will be victimized by such abuse in their lifetime. The statistic for Kentucky women increases to 47.7 percent when including any sexual violence by any perpetrator.<sup>3</sup>

Abuse is one area where her education does not provide protection. Women with high school diplomas and some college made up 44 percent of domestic violence and sexual assault victims who received shelter services in the KIPDA region (which includes Jefferson County) during fiscal year 2011.<sup>4</sup>

Ms. Lis lives in Jefferson County which has one of Kentucky's highest rates of health insurance coverage. Eleven percent of percent of females under sixty-five years of age were uninsured in 2008. This increased to 13.2 percent in 2009.<sup>5</sup>

As a resident of Kentucky, Ms. Lis is more likely to suffer the ill affects of smoking, obesity, and engaging in passive leisure time activities. Despite those probabilities, she has a longevity advantage as a white female.

White females have the longest life expectancy (80.7 years)<sup>6</sup> in the United States, in Kentucky (about 78 years) and also in Louisville (79.2 years).<sup>7</sup> The gravest threat to Ms. Lis' life is cancer, the leading cause of death for females in Jefferson County. Heart disease is the next leading cause of death and the greatest cause of hospitalization for Louisville area residents. Diabetes is common in Kentucky. However, in Jefferson County, 2009, the mortality rate for white females due to diabetes was 38 percent below the 2010 goal.<sup>8</sup>

Not smoking, being active and watching her diet would improve Ms. Lis' chances of having a longer, healthier life.

<sup>1</sup> CityData.com, Jefferson County, based on CDC survey 2003-2009, [http://www.city-data.com/county/Jefferson\\_County-KY.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Jefferson_County-KY.html)

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, population data used in this report is from the U.S. Census Bureau or census data as compiled in American Community Survey Estimates.

<sup>3</sup> The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/state\\_tables.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/state_tables.html)

<sup>4</sup> KDVA (Kentucky Domestic Violence Association) Statistics July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011, <http://www.kdva.org/resources/Docs/KDVA%20FY11%20July%20-%20June%20stats.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/data/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> NCHS Data Brief No. 26 December 2009, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db26.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> World Life Expectancy, <http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/sua/kentucky-life-expectancy-by-county-female>

<sup>8</sup> Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness, Louisville Metro Health Status Report 2012, [http://www.louisvilleky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D83AC3D6-0C08-440C-B993-50B8258C573F/0/HealthreportFINAL\\_12712.pdf](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D83AC3D6-0C08-440C-B993-50B8258C573F/0/HealthreportFINAL_12712.pdf)





# Age, Marital & Family Status:

More than 50.0 percent of Jefferson County females age fifteen and older were single and 30.8 percent had never married, while 42.5 percent were married in 2010.

Females in Jefferson County represent approximately 51.7 percent of the population. This small majority locally is almost 1.0 percent greater than the female majority in Kentucky (0.8 percent). National projections show continued gradual increased longevity for males. There has been a .4 percent slowing in the growth of the female population over the past decade. Males and females are expected make up equal portions of the population by 2050.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation stated in July and September 2011 publications that gains in life expectancy for females lagged behind males due to a smaller decline in smoking and increased obesity for both males and females.

The median age of all residents of Jefferson County was 37.9 years in 2010. For females the median age was 39.4. This represented a decrease of about one year since 2006 when the median age of females in the county stood at 40.5 years. However, the median age for females is expected to rise slowly and exceed age 40 again in 2025.

Females age 50-54 belong to the largest age group, by gender, of Jefferson County residents, making up 3.9 percent of the

population. The next largest age groups, women 45-49 ( 3.8 percent) and women 25-29 (3.7 percent) are also larger than any male age group. The percentages for female age groups do not drop below 3.0 percent until age 60-64 (2.9 percent). Each female age group, age 70 and above, is less than 2.0 percent.

***Females age 20-34 have a “singlehood rate” 5.6 times the rate of those age 35-50.***

Changes in family composition are reflected in the census data on marital status, births to single mothers and grandparents as care-givers to their grandchildren under age eighteen. Female householders not living as a family made up 20.7 percent of households; 2.6 percent were not living alone. However, 15.2 percent of households headed by a female were family households and of those 9.9 percent were living with their own children who were under the age of eighteen.

Of Jefferson County females age fifteen and older, 30.8 percent had never married; 42.5 percent were married. Of those females who had married but were single in 2010, 16.3 percent were divorced or separated and the remainder, 10.3 percent, were widowed.

Based on 2009 estimates, the age group with the highest rate of unmarried females was age twenty to thirty-four, with a rate approximately 2.7 times the percent of "singlehood" for females fifteen to nineteen years old and 5.6 times the percent for females thirty-five to fifty years of age.

The rate of births to teens was 44 per 1,000 in 2005. This represented a considerable decrease over rates as high as 77 in 1990, 65 in 1995 and 58 in 2000. However after

From 2005 to 2009 the percent of births to mothers receiving early and regular prenatal care dropped from 73.0 percent to 66.0 percent.<sup>9</sup> Teens and women of color were the least likely to receive prenatal care.<sup>10</sup>

Births to unmarried females in Jefferson County have consistently risen from 1970 (13 percent) to the present (46 percent). During 2010, 45 percent of births to women age fifteen to age fifty were to unmarried women. However, the rate

January of 2009 (9.1 percent) and peaked in December 2009 at 10.8 percent. From 2006 through 2008 the number of care giving grandparents varied from less

## Repeat teen births: 18%

## Care-giving grandparents increased by more than 50% in 2009 as unemployment rose above 10%.

## 30.8% have never married

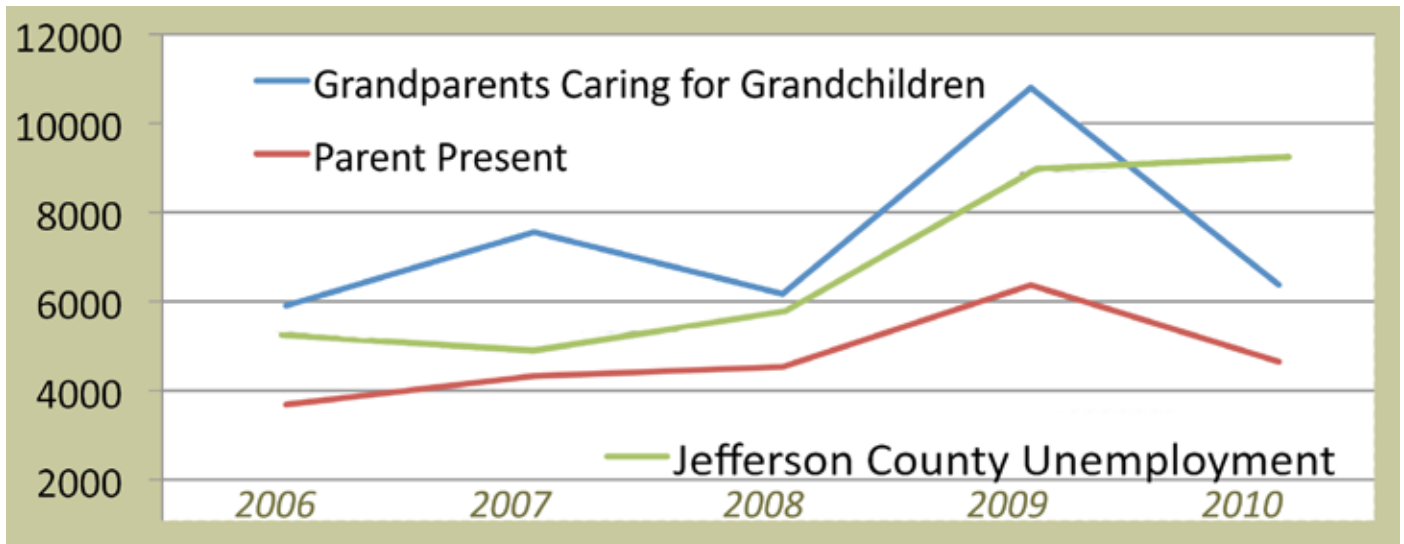
trending downward, teen birth rates have remained at 50-51 since 2006. The percentage of repeat teen births was 19 percent in 2005 and has remained at 18 percent since 2006.<sup>9</sup>

of increase dropped dramatically after several decades of increases in the 7-9 percent range. The increase from 2000 to 2010 was 4 percent.<sup>11</sup>

The 2009 census estimate for grandparents in Jefferson County responsible for their own grandchildren under the age of 18 was 10,867. Of those grandparents responsible for grandchildren, 65 percent were female. A spike in grandparents caring for their grandchildren corresponds to an initial increase in Jefferson County unemployment rates<sup>12</sup> that began in

than 6,000 to slightly more than 7,000. Neither the numbers of grandparents caring for grandchildren alone nor the number of caregiving grandparents with the children's parents present in the household correspond to economic conditions until 2009.

Although unemployment remained greater than 10.0 percent in 2010 the number of grandparents caring for their grandchildren returned to the 2006-2008 range of approximately 6,400 as shown in the chart and trendlines shown below.



<sup>9</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

<sup>10</sup> Louisville Metro Health Status Report 2012,

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db18.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> FRED, Electronic Data, St. Louis FED, <http://m.research.stlouisfed.org/fred/series.php?sid=LOIUR&show=obs&allobs=1>

# Resources . . .

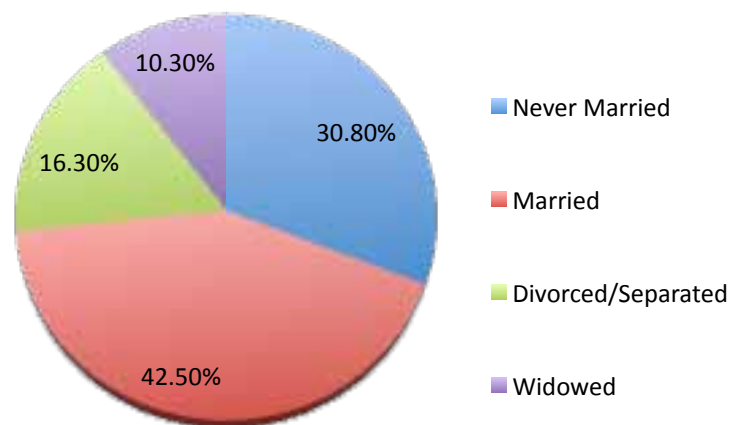
Information about the typical Louisville woman and the age, marital and family status of Jefferson County women was primarily based on data from the U. S. Census Bureau.

Other Important sources include:

---

## **2010 Marital Status of Jefferson County Females Ages 15 and above**

---



The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, ([datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)), maintains the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which describes the site as using “the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. The Data Center features hundreds of indicators with more than four million data points. Users of the site are able to view national, congressional district, county, school district and city data from across the country.”

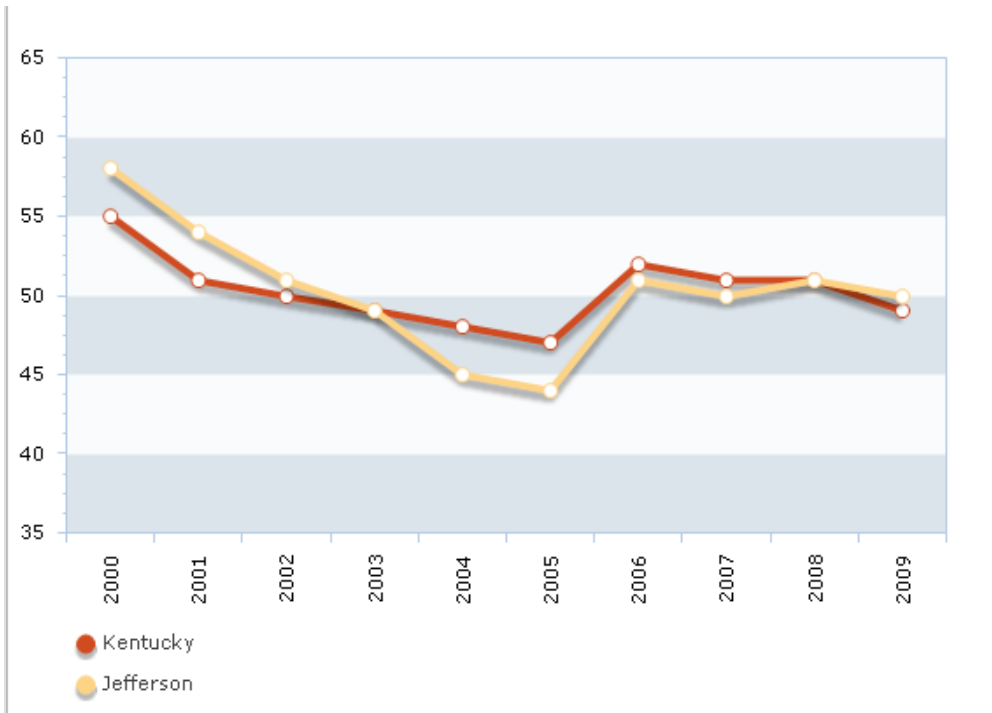
Data is available by state, across states, and nationally for comparison to Louisville/Jefferson County. Other information such as Jefferson County’s births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (16 percent in 2009 down from 19 percent in 2004); a 2012 report on support communities and governments should provide for children living with friends or extended family members; and a 20 percent increase in poverty for Kentucky children since 2000. National statistics for 2010 show that 51 percent of children leave foster care because they are returned to their family or primary caregiver. In Kentucky the statistic is 42 percent.

A recent report featured on KYA’s website: *Twice as Many Kentucky Children Raised By Relatives and Family Friends than a Decade Ago, New Report Shows* shows Kentucky has the second highest rate in the nation of children living with such “kin” caregivers.

The KIDS COUNT web widget can be added to any website. The data it displays can also be customized to display a specific state and category or “indicator.”

Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc.  
11001 Bluegrass Parkway, Suite 100, Jeffersontown, KY 40299  
(502) 895-8167 ext. 118, (502) 895-8225 FAX  
[www.kyouth.org](http://www.kyouth.org)





### ***Kentucky & Jefferson County Teen Births 2000-2009***

Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness (<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Health>) provides a broad array of reports, health information and has 350 highly-trained employees providing a wide range of services to the people of Louisville, including:

Health clinics across the community

Information About Louisville's Smoke Free Law

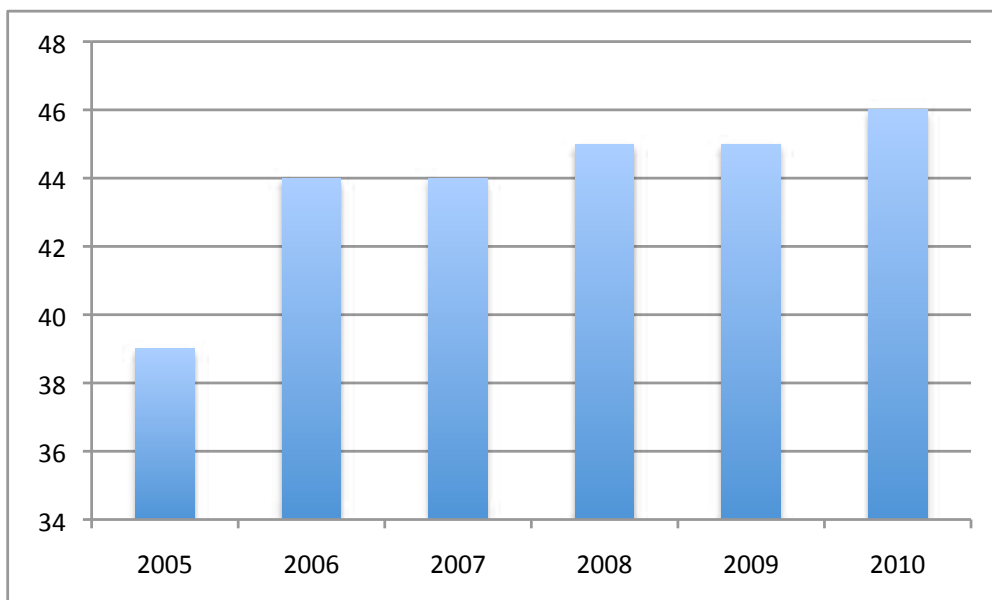
Inspection of eating establishment

Helping the children of Louisville Metro grow up healthy

Information for this report was found in: Louisville Metro Health Status Report 2012, online at:

[http://www.louisvilleky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D83AC3D6-0C08-440C-B993-50BB258C573F/0/HealthreportFINAL\\_12712.pdf](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/D83AC3D6-0C08-440C-B993-50BB258C573F/0/HealthreportFINAL_12712.pdf)

Both the Department of Public Health & Wellness and the federal **Center for Disease Control (CDC)** offer insight into the health and well-being of Kentucky women and their families. For example, on the topic of teen births and single parents as shown in the charts here. Data on the CDC site in a report by Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A. (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db18.pdf>) of the Division of Vital Statistics outlines the increase in U.S. births by unmarried women since 2002. The report also states "nonmarital" birth rates are lowest for young teens and highest for women in their early twenties. The CDC provides information on other topics ranging from obesity, violence prevention, and disease to healthy living. (<http://www.cdc.gov>)



### ***Percent of Children in Single Parent Homes, Jefferson County***

*What we do know  
is educational  
achievement  
is crucial for  
females to  
achieve financial  
self-sufficiency.*

# Education . . .

Among the eighteen to twenty-four year old population in Kentucky, 16.8 percent have not obtained a high school diploma or equivalent.

The rates are greater in Jefferson County but only slightly for females (17 percent).

1. By age twenty-five and over, the number of females without a high school diploma or equivalent decreases to less than 13 percent.
2. Births to mothers without a high school education has remained fairly constant since 2005 and stood at 20 percent in 2009.<sup>13</sup>
3. The percent of females in Jefferson County who had attained at least a high school education stands at 87.1 percent (versus males at 87.5 percent).
4. The number of females with at least a bachelor's degree increased by 5.2 percent (to 31.2 percent) in this age group since 2006.
5. The gender gap in educational attainment at the bachelor's degree level widens to 0.7 percent for females compared to 0.4 percent for high school graduation.
6. As reported by Women 4 Women in Benchmark II, Jefferson County girls are scoring better on standardized tests. But only 38 percent of eleventh grade girls excel in science.

Educational attainment varies widely among demographic groups. Of African American females age twenty-five and older, who make up 56.0 percent of the African American population, 8.9 percent had less than a high school education. This is 1.4 percent greater than African American males. However, more African American females in this age group have attained a bachelor's degree, 9.6 percent compared to only 5.7 percent of African American males.

<sup>13</sup> Kids Count Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/stateprofile.aspx?state=KY&group=Grantee&loc=2979&dt=1%2c3%2c2%2c4>



## ... Economic Status

While females earn less across all educational levels and in almost all occupations when compared to their male counterparts, earned income for females with a graduate or professional degree was three times greater than females with a high school education.

Educational attainment increases income for females. While females earn less across all educational levels and in almost all occupations when compared to their male counterparts, those with the lowest earnings are females without a high school education. Females with the greatest earnings are those with graduate or professional degrees. Earnings for Jefferson County females with graduate or professional degrees were three times greater than for females with a high school education.

In 2010, median earnings for Jefferson County females with some college or an associate's degree were only \$478 greater than for males with a high school education. Females with a graduate or professional degree had median earnings almost \$15,000 less than their male counterparts and almost \$1,500 less than a male with a bachelor's degree.

Despite the protection of the Civil Rights Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Act, women across the country and in Louisville women have not been able to close the wage gap. In 2010, Jefferson County females, age sixteen and older, made up 49.1 percent of the workforce with median earnings of \$27,378. The median income of males stood at \$33,781.

Women in Kentucky, and across the country, also continue to fall into poverty more frequently than men and as of 2011, had not recovered their place in the job market as quickly as men.

***Income for females with graduate degrees was almost \$1500 less than for males with bachelor's degrees***

For many the financial challenges of the job market are compounded by their role as caregivers for their children, grandchildren or parents.

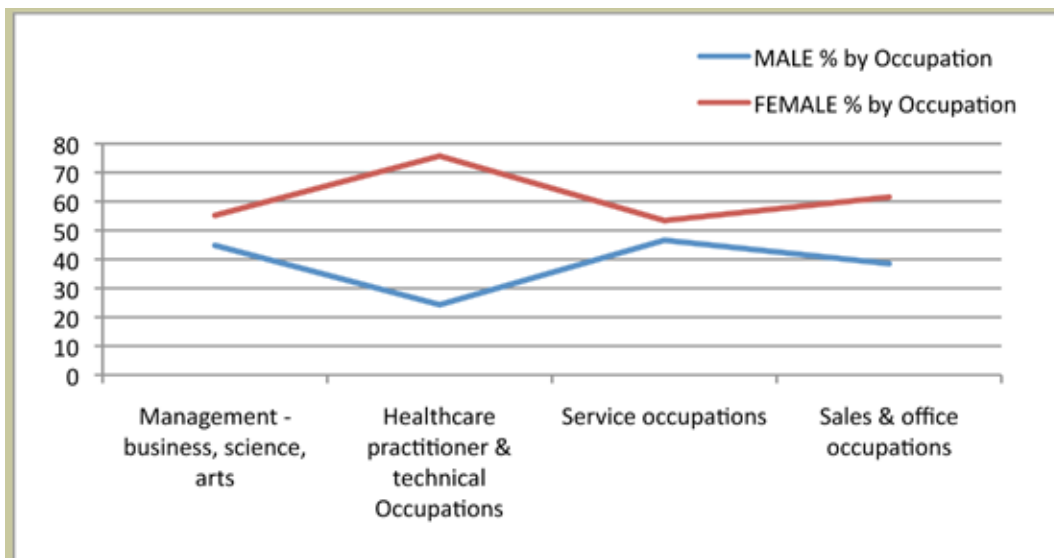
Lack of parity in earnings compounds the affect of economic recession for women. Smaller paychecks result in smaller savings, pensions and reduced unemployment insurance benefits.

# Top Occupations of Females in Jefferson County

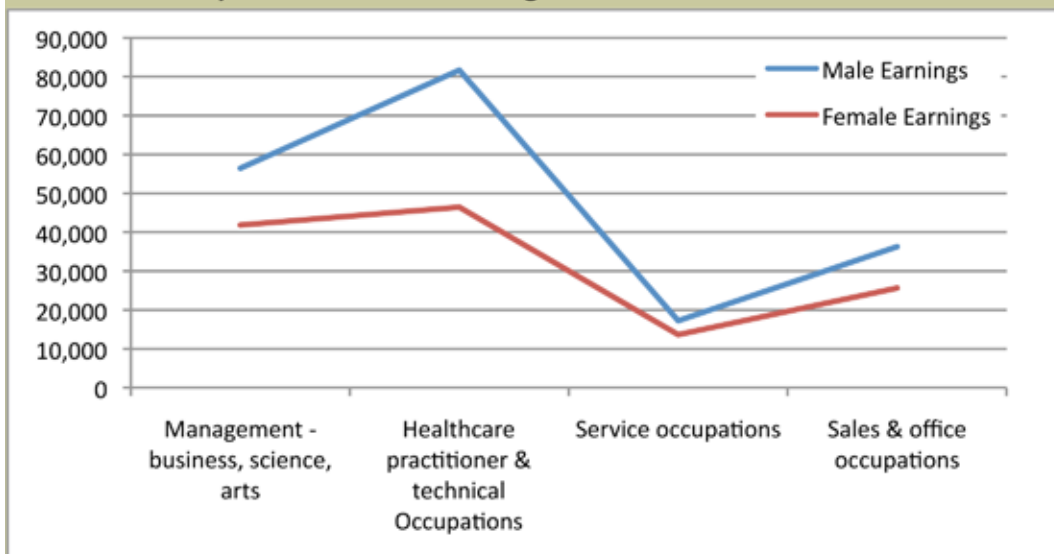
14

- Health Care (21%)
- Educational Services (13%)
- Accommodation and food services (9%)
- Finance and insurance (8%)
- Professional, scientific, and technical services (5%)
- Administrative and support and waste management services (4%)
- Social assistance (4%)

Of all military veterans who live in Jefferson County, 7.4 percent or approximately 4,500 are female veterans. Approximately half of the female veterans belong to the 35-54 year age group. African American female veterans are 1.7 percent of all African American women in Jefferson County which is more than three times the percentage of female veterans among white women. The median income of female veterans in our community is \$27,000, slightly less than 82 percent of the median income of male veterans.



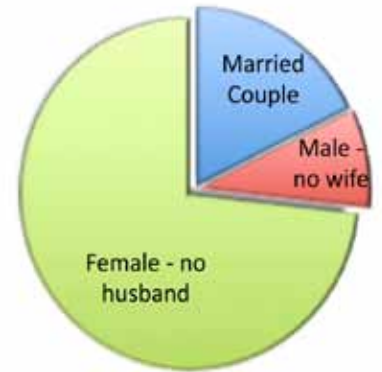
## Occupations and Earnings - Males and Females



**Whether working in a female or male dominated occupation, almost every occupation results in lower pay for females than males.**

<sup>14</sup> City-Data.com, [http://www.city-data.com/county/Jefferson\\_County-KY.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Jefferson_County-KY.html)





Poor Families by Type

When children under the age of eighteen are in the home, the rate of poverty increases by at least 2.0-3.0 percent, depending on age of the child(ren).

# Poverty

From 2000 to 2005, overall poverty in Jefferson County fell below the poverty rate for Kentucky. However, by 2009 poverty in Jefferson County exceeded the state poverty rate in every age group and women in every category fared less well than males.

The poverty rate for disabled women was 4.0 percent greater than for disabled men. Women with no husband present in the household fared on average worse than male households with no wife present.

***Ages 65+  
have lowest  
poverty rate***

In 2010 Jefferson County households in poverty equaled 24.6 percent. The mean income for all families in poverty was \$8,836 below the poverty level; for married head of household families, \$6,840; for single female head of household, \$9,550.

The poverty rate for families among married couples was 4.8 percent and 6.9 percent with children under age eighteen in the household. Both figures are well below the rates for female head of households, 32.8 percent, and 41.7 percent with children under eighteen.

Children receiving free lunches increased from 54,750 to more than 60,000 in the same period. Child support collection fell by almost \$2,800,000 in 2010 but began to recover in 2011.

Effects of the recent economic recession are partially reflected in child-related poverty data reported by the KidsCount.org Data Center which indicates the Jefferson County child poverty rate, which had fallen to 21 percent in 2007, grew to 24.4 percent in 2010.



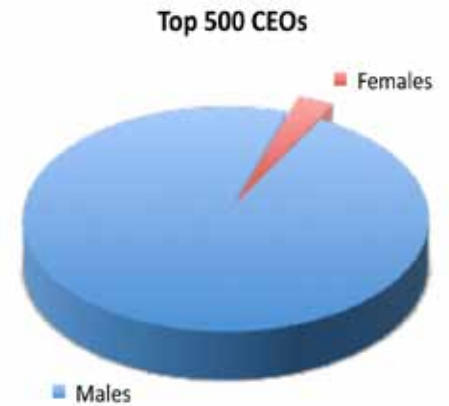


## 3% of top 500 CEOs are female

Several articles published by Forbes in recent years document the proverbial “glass ceiling”, a lack of female chief executive officers and heads of state. In 2009 Heidi Brown and Scott DeCarlo found male CEOs averaged about three times the pay of female CEOs. In May 2010, Mary Ellen Egan published an article in response to Bloomberg’s assertion female CEO compensation was on average 40 percent more than for males.

Egan asserted the Bloomberg conclusion was based on a flawed comparison. Because CEO pay for females was too small a sample, the results were skewed. Instead Forbes averaged the pay of all top 500 chief executives in the U.S. and then compared the female CEOs. (The sample in question has varied between twelve and sixteen female chief executives.)

Conclusion: “While it’s clear some women are being paid on par—and in some instances, more—than their male counterparts, they are clearly the exception and not the rule.”<sup>15</sup>



The National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) compared female and male wage earners across the country by educational level. When comparing wages paid to males in Kentucky to female high school graduates and women with bachelor’s degrees, NWLC found both groups were paid only 69 percent of what their male counterparts were paid. Therefore, a typical Kentucky male with some college or an associate’s degree is paid more than a typical female with a bachelor’s degree.<sup>16</sup>



<sup>15</sup> Egan, M., *Forbes*, May 13, 2010, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/work-in-progress/2010/05/13/do-female-ceos-really-outheart-male-chief-executives>

<sup>16</sup> *The Importance of Fair Pay for Kentucky Women*, April 2012, [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2012equalpay-factsheets/kentucky\\_equalpaystatefactsheet.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2012equalpay-factsheets/kentucky_equalpaystatefactsheet.pdf)

# Physical & Mental Well-Being

Efforts to improve women's health: results are mixed.

Mortality rates for both males and females in Jefferson County exceeded state and national rates and goals for "Healthy People 2010." [Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness]. However, when compared to males, females had lower mortality rates in several areas.

Females experience a lower death rate in each of the top five causes of death in Louisville.

1. Cancer, although the 2nd leading cause of death in the U.S., is the leading cause in Louisville for all residents including females.
2. Heart disease is second, but had decreased for females (2009) to slightly above the 2010 goal.
3. Deaths due to Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease among white females are significantly greater than blacks but are much less than the rates for males.
4. The rate of death for females from Unintentional Injuries was less than half (37 percent) the rate for males (80 percent). The highest rate is among seniors.
5. Deaths from Cerebrovascular Disease (the major cause of hypertension) in Louisville exceed the rates for Kentucky and the U.S. although females have lower rates than males, blacks or whites in Louisville.
6. In regard to homicide as cause of death, female deaths represented 25 percent of homicide deaths.
7. There was one female victim of suicide for every 2.75 male deaths due to suicide.

***Among female survivors  
of intimate partner abuse,  
1 in 10 experience severe depression***

## Mental Health

In 2009, the percent of females in Jefferson County reporting fourteen or more "mentally unhealthy" days (9.4 percent) was 1.8 times greater than the rate reported by males (5.4 percent). It represented an increase of 1.4 percent for females since 2004. The rates of mentally unhealthy days reported by women reflect in part the impact of intimate partner violence. One in ten women who have experienced intimate partner abuse experience severe depression. The rate of other types of poor mental health outcomes are even greater for abused women.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Eason, Ashley, *The Relationship Between Intimate Partner Violence, Substance Abuse Behaviors, And Mental Health Outcomes in Kentucky Women*, April 2010, <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kyhealthregistry/about/EasonCapstone.pdf>

*Data from  
the Kentucky  
Women's Health  
Registry reports  
26% of Louisville  
women feel  
they are living  
with a large or  
overwhelming  
amount of stress.*



# Improving The Health of Louisville Women

The Center for Disease Control report for adult obesity indicates only Alabama and South Carolina have greater obesity rates than Kentucky's rate of 31.3 percent. Twelve states have rates above 30.0 percent. According to the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, Louisville Metro Health Status Report 2012, there are five key indicators linked to about 30.0 percent of cancer deaths: obesity, diets low in fruits and vegetables, a sedentary lifestyle, using tobacco products, and excessive alcohol consumption. The good news is, reducing these same health indicators would also reduce heart disease, diabetes, and strokes.

Of women participating in the Kentucky Women's Health Registry (<http://www.mc.uky.edu/kyhealthregistry>) a large number report key health risks. Women in the registry respond to the survey anonymously online or mail in paper surveys. A considerable number of Jefferson County participants reported being overweight, 27.3 percent, and 29.3 percent consider themselves obese. Twenty percent considered their lifestyle "Sedentary." However, only 13.1 percent consider their health "Fair/Poor." Almost 14.0 percent report using illegal drugs. While a smaller number consider themselves to have a problem with alcohol consumption (6.3 percent), a greater number, 38.0 percent, have smoked, although fewer - about 10.0 percent - state they are current smokers.

Other indicators related to well-being reported in the Registry by Louisville women included living with large or overwhelming stress, 26.3 percent. This is slightly below the 27.7 percent reported by all Kentucky women in the Registry. Exposure to violence was reported by 36.8 percent of Louisville women, compared to 36.1 percent reported by Kentucky women. These rates are slightly less than the 2010 Center for Disease Control figure of 37.5 percent for rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in Kentucky and 1.9 percent above the CDC national statistic (35.6 percent).



---

***Making five changes to our lifestyle and the way we eat could reduce cancer in our community by up to 30%***

---



# Community Leadership and Involvement

Women are a majority of volunteers and registered voters but only one woman has been governor of Kentucky and only two women have represented Kentucky in Congress.

Although more women registered, a greater percentage of males voted.

The percent of female registered voters remains at 54 percent in Jefferson County. Data from Kentucky's State Board of Elections<sup>18</sup> shows that although a larger percentage of women register to vote, often a greater percentage of men go to the polls. In 2011 a greater percentage of males went to the polls. This was across all age groups except voters ages thirty-five to forty-nine in which the rate of female voters exceeded the rate of male voters by 0.1 percent (25.7 percent versus 25.6 percent). This pattern is particularly consistent across years among registered voters age sixty-two and older.

***There have been over 13,000 members of Congress. 2% have been women.***

In Kentucky few women have served in the state legislature and even fewer have held statewide office.

In 1967, Georgia Powers was elected to the Kentucky Senate. As the first woman and first African-American elected to the state Senate, she served for twenty years. Senator Powers opened the door, but female candidates did not flood into elected offices. Forty-five years later six women are serving in the Senate and twenty in the House of Representatives. Kentucky currently ranks thirty-eighth in women serving in state legislatures.<sup>19</sup>

Kentucky's two females elected to the U.S. Congress were elected more than thirty years apart. One from eastern Kentucky replaced her husband and the second was Ann Northup from Louisville. Only one woman has served as Lieutenant Governor, Thelma Stovall, who began her term in 1976. Shortly afterward (1984), Kentucky's only female governor, Martha Layne Collins took office. A handful of women have held other statewide offices such as Secretary of State and Treasurer. Crit Luellan served as State Auditor from 2003-2011. Currently the only female serving Kentucky after being elected to a statewide office is Allison Grimes, Secretary of State.

<sup>18</sup> Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers [http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/research/topics/routes\\_to\\_office.php](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/research/topics/routes_to_office.php)

<sup>19</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, <http://sos.ky.gov/election>

*According to  
NameIt.Change It.org  
women are 50%  
less likely than  
men to consider  
running for  
elected office*

# Volunteerism

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2012 report on volunteerism, the rate of volunteerism by women exceeds males by 6.5 percent and increased slightly more than 0.5 percent in 2011. It notes that women were a majority across all major demographics. The report states volunteers tend to select opportunities related to their interests or families. Therefore, parents are much more likely to volunteer for activities of their children or youth organizations. Married persons are more likely to volunteer than singles and parents more likely than non-parents.

The Corporation for National and Community Service publishes data on volunteering in the United States. Based on a three-year average of volunteer hours for males and females, Kentucky ranks fortieth. Volunteer hours per resident in Louisville began to decrease by small increments in 2006 and then fell by several hours in 2010. Volunteer rates are negatively affected by poverty, unemployment and other economic indicators such as foreclosure rates

Studies of volunteers report potential volunteers state they do not volunteer because no one has asked them. Another frequent finding is that volunteers are more likely to be people who participate in community activities. Others seek volunteer opportunities to expand their networking opportunities and employment prospects.



---

***Across all ages,  
educational  
levels and  
other major  
demographics,  
women continue  
to volunteer at a  
higher rate than  
men. (Federal  
Bureau of Labor  
Statistics, 2012)***

---

